

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-26 and 28 are now pending as claims 3 and 27 are cancelled. In order to facilitate allowance, rejected independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 3 and rejected independent claim 23 is amended to include the limitations of claim 27. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Based upon the foregoing, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested. Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this response.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Nieberding', written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Nieberding
Reg. No. 39,316

THOMPSON HINE LLP
2000 Courthouse Plaza NE
10 West Second Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-1758
Telephone (937) 443-6892
Facsimile: (937) 443-6635

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